



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8th District

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HOAN BRIDGE: WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STUDY? ALTERNATIVE STUDIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik released the following statement in response to a letter sent from the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) to Governor Jim Doyle. The letter reads, “We are writing to request your support for an in-depth study of possible alternatives for the repair and replacement options for the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee.”

“MMAC’s basic premise, as detailed in a letter to my office, is a study of alternatives, but what alternatives? Should Milwaukee build a bridge over the port of Milwaukee? The Hoan Bridge is there. Should the rebuilt Marquette Interchange connect to the Hoan that will need to be re-decked in a few years? The interchange has been rebuilt and was designed to make this connection; it was finished just last year. Should the Port of Milwaukee and the port businesses under the bridge be relocated? Yet this is the port; it is the natural formation of the river and the historic reason the city is built where it is. Should the Hoan connect to I-794? This was accomplished in 1997. Should the Hoan be part of the long-range transportation planning for southeastern Wisconsin? Planning by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has already been done through the year 2035, which includes the Hoan Bridge and I-794 as an important transportation corridor. This study was performed through all of the proper channels, rather than through special interest letters to the Governor. Should the Hoan be replaced just when DOT is planning to do a major overhaul of the I-94 corridor through 2016? The Hoan/794 connection will play a major role in relocating this traffic. Then just what is it we are to study?

“MMAC used its bully pulpit by permitting HNTB to present development alternatives to the land under the Hoan on June 24, 2009. After the meeting, I asked Pete Beitzel, MMAC’s transportation guru, if the membership of MMAC had taken a position with regard to the HNTB presentation. I was informed that no formal position was taken. Yet MMAC staff sent a letter to the Governor asking for a study of alternatives to the Hoan.

“Finally, who is making this policy decision to spend state money on alternatives to the Hoan Bridge? No Supervisor, Alderperson or Mayor has been asked. These are the duly elected representatives of the citizens. To date, we know at least \$150,000 was paid to HNTB. No elected official has directed such policy. Last time I checked, Tim Sheehy was not elected to public office.”

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